

He's Ready

Herschel Hammons is 72, but he's a small, wiry man, spry as a cricket, and he certainly isn't ready for a walking stick as an aid to equilibrium or perambulation...

Hunted Woods

We sat and chatted about Brother Luther whom I knew. I wrote a column about him and his hobby in 1940, and had written about him several times in subsequent years...



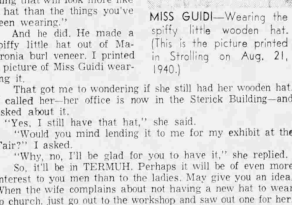
WALKING STICKS?—You bet! Herschel Hammons has 'em, and each one is a collector's item. They were made by his brother Luther.

Lived as He Wanted to Live

"Yes," Herschel Hammons said, "even when we were boys at his old home place in Spring Creek Bottoms (near Bolivar) Luther was interested in unusual trees. He'd slip off from the field where he was supposed to be working and go for a tramp thru the woods..."

Still Has It!

When I started to write this column, I got my file on the late Luther Hammons. The piece I did on him in 1940 was in the file. I found it interesting to read an incident involving Mr. Hammons and Miss Mary Guidi...



MISS GUIDI—Wearing the spiffy little wooden hat (this is the picture printed in Strolling on August 21, 1940).

The Country Parson

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Need Redhead For Miss Flame

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How it handles Desegregation Problem

By CLARK PORTEOUS, Press-Scimitar Staff Writer DALLAS—"A good citizen obeys the law."

That's what Clarence Albert Tatum Jr., 54, president of the amazing Dallas Citizens Council—which makes him the No. 1 Dallas citizen this year—says.

Desegregation Without Fanfare The big test before school desegregation came Wednesday, July 26, when 50 negroes walked quietly into 40 downtown stores and restaurants, including the expensive Zodiac Room restaurant in world-famous Neiman-Marcus...

Excellent Communication Between Races Dallas is the last of the big cities of Texas to yield to school desegregation. Dr. W. T. White, superintendent of Dallas schools, won't say how many schools will be desegregated or how many negro pupils will be assigned to the high grade in the schools. Registration is in progress. It is expected to be only a token desegregation.

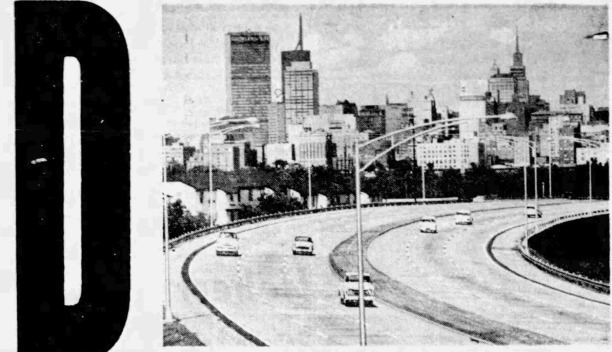
Has More Power Than Mayor Tatum, the Council president, is a big, husky fellow who looks like a tackle, when he wasn't at Southern Methodist University where he was graduated in 1935—too little then. He has worked up from a start as a salesman in appliances, to president of Dallas Power & Light, a privately owned utility which does a \$60 million yearly business, and is biggest taxpayer in Dallas. Tatum has more power than the mayor or anyone else in Dallas while president of the Council. He seems to use it wisely.

When the Council decided that desegregation was inevitable and that Dallas didn't want a Little Rock, New Orleans or Montgomery situation, Tatum went into action. Tatum and his group say it matters not whether or not you like the law, whether you are for segregation or desegregation—what does matter is that you obey the law.

After Wilkins held the plans for desegregation, he said he would make his speech, and would say things the committee wouldn't like, but said "it wouldn't be as tough" as it would have been had he attended the citizens meeting. He spoke, but only 1800 negroes attended. The Saturday afternoon meeting was not publicized. In fact, publicity has been avoided thruout, to avert crystallizing of hostile factions and to thwart agitators on both sides.

The Dallas Citizens Council, which has nothing to do with White Citizens Council, took the lead in desegregation, as it has in so many things here. The Council is 24 years old, yet operates so quietly many citizens of Dallas are unaware of its existence. Yet it is the real power behind the scenes in "Big D", as they like to call Dallas.

They Shape the Civic Policies The Council is an unofficial body of about 250 men, the chief executives of banks, businesses and industries. Many of them are millionaires and the companies they represent are worth billions. They are the moneyed men of Dallas. They shape civic policies by virtue of the fact that members control the money that is the lifeblood of Dallas.



DALLAS, TEXAS—A city much like Memphis.



MOTHER AND CHILD at Neiman-Marcus in Dallas. This world-famed, high-fashion specialty shop recently desegregated all its dining facilities but few negroes were chosen to eat there.

of real-estate temples of finance. Council members say the Council is non-political, but many disagree. They say the Council takes no open political stand. It is obvious that the members have considerable political power. However, the Council acts almost always for the good of Dallas, will not participate in any project that will be profit-making. For instance, the Dallas wants a big league baseball club, the Council will not work for that, as the owners would make money.

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Basic idea of the two committees working together was to condition the citizenry to accept school desegregation as the law of the land, without friction or bitterness on either side. It has worked so well that when a former Methodist minister, who leads the segregationist movement, called on the Baker Hotel to protest desegregation, only 22 attended.

'The Good Citizen Obeys the Law' Keenote of the Council program is that it "does not advocate integration, it does not advocate segregation," but points out that Uncle Sam has decreed Dallas schools be desegregated, and "the good citizen obeys the law."

Thorton, the former mayor, frankly stated his group got the Dallas City Council, not to be confused with the Citizens Council, to pass a non-reduce spelling out of a mob is. Now, if as many as three persons gather, it can be construed as illegal and dispersed by police.

Tomorrow: Clark Porteous continues his TALK OF THREE CITIES. He will tell what the situation is in Atlanta, where school desegregation will take effect on Wednesday.

The Council's desegregation message has been disseminated thru civic clubs, religious groups, the bar and medical groups, labor unions and employ groups. This has been done by personal contact, and with a fine film and printed material.

The film, "Dallas at the Crossroads" was made with local talent, with Walter Cronkite, nationally known TV personality, as the commentator. The film shows mob scenes in Little Rock and New Orleans, shows citizens going to jail in Dallas, just in case he breaks the law. It is well done, with representatives of various groups calling for obedience to the law.

When the State Fair Grounds amusement park was desegregated, there was a ride, with little cars bumping into each other, where it was feared there might be trouble. Four cleaned-up negro swaths were employed to watch the ride and prevent incidents. There were none.

In smoothing the way for desegregation, the Dallas Police Department, which long has had plain clothes negro officers, agreed to switch some to uniforms, so they could be identified easily.

Companies were asked to upgrade negro employees, who were rated as janitors, for instance, but were acting as shipping clerks, etc. Some quick changes and pay increases resulted.

Maceo Smith, head of the negro committee, said at first the negroes had feared the program was a device for suppressing pressure for real desegregation, but results had dispelled these misgivings.

Thorton said only once has the Council actually contributed cash to a project, and that was when \$700 was given to a poll tax drive a few years ago.

Thorton, who was born in a dugout in Hickory County, but only because his father, a sharecropper, had not yet been able to move into a house, left the farm at 18, was a candy salesman, used to visit Memphis. He remembers his boss from St. Louis was with him in Memphis, smoking an expensive cigar, and a candy dealer asked if he could afford to buy a pack of cigarettes. Thorton said he could, gave the reason "I make a product on which I make a profit and you can sell for a profit." Thorton said his boss, a fine salesman, said he was in the position now to set some new standards in this field of intergroup relations. Smith said: "It's a new approach for the South—instead of protest, talking problems by negotiation and counsel. It's not a win-lose or shadow boxing program, but a frank appraisal of what the negro wants."

Thorton formed the Citizens Council after Dallas got the 1936 Centennial celebration from other cities which historically had more negro rights. Dallas wasn't born until five years after Texas became a state. Next came the Pan-American Exposition in 1937, and Thorton, still chairman of the Mercantile National Bank, third bank in Dallas, saw the need of a "Yes and No" manual. He wanted it called. It first was limited to 50 members. Thorton recalled, but as the city has grown, so has the Council, and it now has more than 200 members.

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